

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4659

To allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for domestic violence programs through the voluntary purchase of specially issued postage stamps.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2000

Mr. HEFLEY (for himself, Mrs. MORELLA, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. KELLY, and Ms. DUNN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for domestic violence programs through the voluntary purchase of specially issued postage stamps.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stamp Out Domestic
5 Violence Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMPS RELATING TO DOMES-**
2 **TIC VIOLENCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 39, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 414 the
5 following:

6 **“§ 414a. Special postage stamps relating to domestic**
7 **violence**

8 “(a) In order to afford the public a convenient way
9 to contribute to funding for domestic violence programs,
10 the Postal Service shall establish a special rate of postage
11 for first-class mail under this section.

12 “(b) The rate of postage established under this
13 section—

14 “(1) shall be equal to the regular first-class rate
15 of postage, plus a differential not to exceed 25 per-
16 cent;

17 “(2) shall be set by the Governors in accord-
18 ance with such procedures as the Governors shall by
19 regulation prescribe (in lieu of the procedures under
20 chapter 36); and

21 “(3) shall be offered as an alternative to the
22 regular first class rate of postage.

23 “(c) The use of the rate of postage established under
24 this section shall be voluntary on the part of postal pa-
25 trons.

1 “(d)(1) Amounts becoming available for domestic vio-
2 lence programs under this section shall be paid by the
3 Postal Service to the Department of Justice. Payments
4 under this section shall be made under such arrangements
5 as the Postal Service shall, by mutual agreement with the
6 Department of Justice, establish in order to carry out the
7 purposes of this section, except that under those arrange-
8 ments, payments to the Department of Justice shall be
9 made at least twice a year.

10 “(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘amounts
11 becoming available for domestic violence programs under
12 this section’ means—

13 “(A) the total amount of revenues received by
14 the Postal Service that it would not have received
15 but for the enactment of this section; reduced by

16 “(B) an amount sufficient to cover reasonable
17 costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out
18 this section, including costs attributable to the print-
19 ing, sale, and distribution of stamps under this sec-
20 tion,

21 as determined by the Postal Service under regulations that
22 it shall prescribe.

23 “(e) It is the sense of Congress that nothing in this
24 section should—

1 “(1) directly or indirectly cause a net decrease
2 in total funds received by the Department of Justice
3 or any other agency of the Government (or any com-
4 ponent or program thereof) below the level that
5 would otherwise have been received but for the en-
6 actment of this section; or

7 “(2) affect regular first-class rates of postage
8 or any other regular rates of postage.

9 “(f) Special postage stamps under this section shall
10 be made available to the public beginning on such date
11 as the Postal Service shall by regulation prescribe, but not
12 later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of
13 this section.

14 “(g) The Postmaster General shall include in each
15 report rendered under section 2402 with respect to any
16 period during any portion of which this section is in effect,
17 information concerning the operation of this section, ex-
18 cept that, at a minimum, each report shall include—

19 “(1) the total amount described in subsection
20 (d)(2)(A) which was received by the Postal Service
21 during the period covered by such report; and

22 “(2) of the amount under paragraph (1), how
23 much (in the aggregate and by category) was re-
24 quired for the purposes described in subsection
25 (d)(2)(B).

1 “(h) This section shall cease to be effective at the
2 end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which
3 special postage stamps under this section are first made
4 available to the public.”.

5 (b) REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF
6 THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than 3 months (but no
7 earlier than 6 months) before the end of the 2-year period
8 referred to in section 414a(h) of title 39, United States
9 Code (as amended by subsection (a)), the Comptroller
10 General of the United States shall submit to the Congress
11 a report on the operation of such section. Such report shall
12 include—

13 (1) an evaluation of the effectiveness and the
14 appropriateness of the authority provided by such
15 section as a means of fund-raising; and

16 (2) a description of the monetary and other re-
17 sources required of the Postal Service in carrying
18 out such section.

19 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
21 for chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, is
22 amended by striking the item relating to section 414
23 and inserting the following:

“414. Special postage stamps relating to breast cancer.

“414a. Special postage stamps relating to domestic violence.”.

1 (2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading for sec-
2 tion 414 of title 39, United States Code, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 **“§ 414. Special postage stamps relating to breast**
5 **cancer”.**

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